

CLAIMS

What we claim is:

1. A method of generating surround-sound data including steps of: storing digital input/output signal in a memory; retrieving said input/output signal stored in said memory a predetermined time later; and adding said retrieved input/output signal to said digital input signal to generate an output signal, said method characterized in that:

said input/output signal to be stored in said memory is compressed by digital compression means before said input/output signal is stored in said memory; and

said input/output signal retrieved from said memory is expanded by digital expansion means before said input/output signal is added to said output signal.

2. An apparatus for generating a surround-sound signal from a digital signal input thereto, and providing an output signal derived from said input signal, said apparatus comprising:

digital compression means for compressing said input/output signal;

a memory for storing said compressed input/output signal until said compressed input/output signal is retrieved a predetermined time later;

digital expansion means for expanding said compressed input/output signal retrieved from said memory;

an adder for adding said expanded input/output signal to the current input signal.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said digital compression

means is a differential pulse code modulation (DPCM) encoder, and said digital expansion means is a DPCM decoder.

4. The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a delay time controller for generating a delay time instruction, wherein said predetermined time for retrieving said compressed input/output signal from said memory is controlled by said delay time instruction.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the number of data bits output from said digital compression means is varied in accordance with said delay time instruction.